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**Cc:** []

**From:** CN=Judy Smith/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US

**Sent:** Sat 6/2/2012 8:11:56 PM

**Subject:** Fw: EPA - What's the Rush?

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FYI - This is the Pebble Partnership's regular e-mail newsletter

----- Forwarded by Judy Smith/R10/USEPA/US on 06/02/12 01:09 PM -----

From: "The Pebble Partnership" <nancelarsen@pebblepartnership.com>

To: Judy Smith/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 06/01/12 06:30 PM

Subject: EPA - What's the Rush?

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

Pebble Update

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#### State Of Alaska:

##### EPA Public Comment Period Inadequate

The state of Alaska has requested an extension of 120 days for the public comment period related to the EPA draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment. State of Alaska Attorney General Michael Geraghty calls the current 60-day comment period "inadequate for the public, including the State, to address the technical and legal merits of the assessment in question."

##### The request

notes several issues related to the comment period including lack of public access to more than 2,000 documents cited yet not included in the assessment; lack of scientific vetting scrutinized by multiple state and federal agencies; and state and federal laws related to the state of Alaska's right to manage its own lands and natural resources for economic stability.

This is not the first time the state of Alaska has questioned the legal authority of the EPA's actions, which could potentially stop economic development in southwest Alaska and impact current projects and future investments throughout the state. In a series of letter postmarked in January, March and April of this year, which include questions that have gone unanswered by the EPA, the state of Alaska has repeatedly questioned the EPA's intent.

#### Voice Your Support For The Regulatory Process:

A series of public meetings related to the draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment has been established by the EPA during summer 2012. The first meeting regarding this important Alaska economic issue was held in Seattle, Thursday, May 30, in order to accommodate the fishing industry's summer processing schedule.

Showing a distinct lack of understanding related to rural Alaska communities and annual critical activities during the month of June, the EPA has scheduled the remaining draft watershed assessment meetings as the Alaskan summer gets fully underway. The first meeting in Alaska will be held Monday, June 4, in Anchorage, at the UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium beginning at 5:30 p.m.

People interested in testifying regarding this issue, which has the potential to stymie every natural resource project in the state of

Alaska, are encouraged to attend and comment. Written comments may also be submitted to the EPA. The Pebble Partnership, as well as natural resource groups and businesses across the state and country, have noted the draft assessment is rushed and inadequate.

EPA's first meeting in Alaska will be held June 4, 2012, in Anchorage.

UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium, 5:30 p.m. Open to the public for comment.

For a complete schedule of meetings link [here](#).

#### Intent of Rushed EPA Assessment Causes Broad Multi-Industry Concerns

The National Mining Association (NMA) has formerly voiced its concerns related to the rushed time frame of the EPA Bristol Bay watershed assessment and has requested an extension beyond the current 60-day public comment period to 120 days.

In a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the NMA notes its previous comments regarding the precedent-setting nature of the initiative that will directly impact not only NMA members, but all companies performing activities requiring a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, as well.

Further, the NMA questions the hurried aspects of the large-scale, complex scientific assessment, which "calls into question the validity of EPA's findings." Similar watershed assessments conducted by the EPA in the past have covered substantially smaller and more easily accessible portions of land and have taken several years to complete. The EPA Bristol Bay watershed assessment was completed in just 11 months.

The NMA has expressed alarm over the lack of public access to documents included in the assessment and calls the current 60-day comment period completely inadequate for any meaningful participation.

The NMA is a trade industry that represents a broad spectrum of industries related to mining, minerals, manufacturing, equipment and supplies, engineering and consulting firms, financial institutions and more.

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Alaska Miners Association  
United States Geological Survey  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
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